



## **Rhode Island's Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project Recognized by Harvard as a Bright Idea In Government**

On March 29, 2011 the Rhode Island Department of Health's Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project was recognized as one of 36 Bright Ideas recipients by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

The Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project, trains parents of youth with special healthcare needs to serve as consultants in pediatricians' offices for other families like them. The project is based on the concept that parents of children with special healthcare needs, having faced the same challenges, are best equipped to help other families. The parent consultants work with families to find assistance and services not available in the doctor's office. PPEP is cost effective and increases the utilization of community- based services. ([more](http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/pediatricpracticeenhancementproject/index.php) about the program at; <http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/pediatricpracticeenhancementproject/index.php>)

The Department of Health started the program in 2003, in partnership with the Department of Human Services, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network/Family Voices, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island; and the Rhode Island chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Bright Ideas that were recognized address a host of pertinent issues including health care, education, performance management, civic engagement, and service delivery, and represents the creative and innovative programming of school districts, county, city, state, and federal agencies, as well as public-private partnerships. The programs were selected by an evaluation team of policy experts comprised of both academics and practitioners. Many of the recognized Bright Ideas, including Rhode Island's, offer unique solutions to delivering quality health care and education to underserved populations.

Now in its second cycle, the Bright Ideas program is part of a broader initiative of the Innovations in American Government Awards program, which spotlights exemplary models of government innovation and advances efforts to address the nation's most pressing public concerns.